

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 IO-14 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08

SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /200 W

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R 221405Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5838

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS CAIRO 1482

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG SA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER TO EGYPT

1. PRINCE SULTAN AND SAUDI MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVED CAIRO MARCH 17 FOR VISIT AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT SADAT. SULTAN MET SAME EVENING WITH MINWAR AHMAD ISMAIL AND CHIEF OF STAFF GAMASI. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS ON EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS.

2. MARSHAL ISMAIL TOOK SULTAN ON VISIT TO SUEZ FRONT AND NASSER MILITARY ACADEMY. ARABIC PAPERS FEATURED PHOTOS AND STORIES OF SULTAN INSPECTING SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES.

3. PRESS REPORTS SULTAN HAS HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH SADAT, WHO PRESENTED HIM WITH "MILITARY STAR OF HONOR" FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE OCTOBER WAR EFFORTS. SULTAN ALSO HAD MEETING WITH AL SEC GEN MAHMUD RIAD, REPORTEDLY TO "REVIEW LATEST ARAB DEVELOPMENTS."

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4. GUMHURIYYA MARCH 21 HAD EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SULTAN

IN WHICH HE SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO CONVEY CONGRATULATIONS OF SAUDI ARABIA, KING FAISAL, AND SAUDI ARMED FORCES FOR "SUCCESS OF THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS EGYPT HAS EXERTED ON BEHALF OF ARABS AND ARAB DIGNITY". HE PAID TRIBUTE TO SADAT'S LEADERSHIP AND MODESTY AND COMPLIMENTED EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR HIGH MORALE, COURAGE AND FAITH. COMMENTING ON CURRENT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, SULTAN SAID STEPS TAKEN TOWARD PEACE CAME AS NATURAL RESULT OF APPRECIATION OF OUTSIDE WORLD FOR ARAB ATTITUDE. HE ADDED THAT ARAB SOLIDARITY HAD MADE PEACE STEP POSSIBLE AND SAID "AS ARABS WE MUST PROVIDE, AT THIS STAGE, AN APPROPRIATE CLIMATE AS WELL AS FULL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE, SO THAT IT CAN ACUTALLY BE ACHIEVED."

5. ON RECENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY OIL MINISTERS, SULTAN REPORTEDLY SAID HE SUPPORTED THESE RESOLUTIONS, ADDING, WE DO NOT SEEK TO HARM THE WORLD, BUT "WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT IMPROVING POPULAR CONDITIONS IN EUORPE OR AMERICA SHOULD BE DONE AT THE COST OF OUR CAUSE".

6. EMBASSY NOTES AFP DISPATCH FROM RIYAD MARCH 20 QUOTING MARSHAL ISMAIL AS SAYING DURING HIS VISIT WITH SULTAN TO WEST BANK OF SUEZ: "ALL ARAB TERRITORIES WILL BE LIBERATED AND WE SHALL ALL BE ABLE TO PRAY AT THE JERUSALEM MOSQUE IF GOD WILLS." TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS STATEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED BY EGYPTIAN MEDIA.

7. SULTAN HAS BEN GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT BY GOE AS BEFITS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT'S MAJOR ARAB ALLY AND FINANCIAL BENEFACTOR.
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